Abstract of the Disclosure

To simplify the process of configuring a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) path and minimize the potential for mis-configuration, the present invention provides a SONET path configuration wizard. The SONET path configuration wizard provides a network manager with available and valid SONET path configuration parameter options. The options are made consistent with constraints imposed by the SONET protocol and the network device itself, and the options may be further limited by other constraints, for example, customer subscription limitations. This reduces the expertise required of network managers to configure a SONET path while simultaneously preventing mis-configurations by only presenting the network manager with valid options. In addition, as the network manager proceeds to use the SONET path configuration wizard, the network manager's choices are validated to prevent mis-configuration and the available / valid options list is changed in response to the network manager's choices. This further reduces the necessary expertise and minimizes the potential for mis-configurations. Moreover, to increase the speed and efficiency of configuring a SONET path, the SONET path configuration wizard may present the network manager with one or more short cuts that allow a network manager to quickly complete a typical SONET path configuration.